We claim:

1. A wound dressing, comprising:

an absorbent core having opposed proximal and distal surfaces, and defining border and central portions along the distal surface thereof; and

a liquid impervious, vapor permeable backing layer secured to the absorbent core, said backing layer having at least one compliant element disassociated from the absorbent core.

2. The wound dressing according to claim 1, wherein the at least one compliant element corresponds to an intermediate portion of the absorbent core interposed between the border and central portions thereof.

3. The wound dressing according to claim 2, wherein the absorbent core has a thickness at the central portion thereof that is less than the thickness at the intermediate portion.

4. The wound dressing according to claim 1, wherein the border portion of the absorbent core includes a beveled portion near a peripheral edge thereof.

5. The wound dressing according to claim 1, wherein a thickness of the absorbent core progressively decreases from an outer section of the intermediate portion to the border portion thereof.

6. The wound dressing according to claim 5, wherein the thickness of the absorbent core is at a minimum along a peripheral edge of the border portion.

7. The wound dressing according to claim 1, wherein the backing layer is permanently secured to the absorbent core along peripheral edges of the absorbent core.

8. The wound dressing according to claim 7, wherein the backing layer is sealed along peripheral edges of the absorbent core.

9. The wound dressing according to claim 1, wherein the border portion of the absorbent core includes at least one beveled portion, said backing layer being permanently secured to the absorbent core along the border portion thereof.

10. The wound dressing according to claim 1, wherein said backing layer is attached to the central portion of the absorbent core when said wound dressing is substantially devoid of moisture, said backing layer is configured to disassociate from the central portion of the absorbent core when the wound dressing has absorbed a quantity of moisture.

11. The wound dressing according to claim 1, wherein the compliant element includes at least one ridge concentric to the periphery of the absorbent core extending substantially outwardly relative to the distal surface of the absorbent core.

12. The wound dressing according to claim 1, wherein the compliant element is defined as a portion of backing layer extending generally co-planar with the distal surface of the absorbent core when the wound dressing is substantially devoid of moisture.

13. The wound dressing according to claim 1, further comprising a perforated, skin adhesive facing layer secured to the proximal surface of the absorbent core.

14. The wound dressing according to claim 13, wherein the facing layer is a discrete layer of silicone gel.

15. The wound dressing according to claim 1, wherein the absorbent core is selected from the group consisting of polymeric foam, woven material, and non-woven material.

16. The wound dressing according to claim 1, wherein the backing layer is selected from the group consisting of latex rubber, silicone film, polyurethane film, and polyethylene film.

17. A wound dressing, comprising:

an absorbent core containing discrete portions of at least one absorbent material, said absorbent core defining opposed proximal and distal surfaces, and border and central portions along the distal surface thereof; and

a liquid impervious, vapor permeable backing layer connected to the absorbent core, said backing layer having at least one compliant element disassociated from the absorbent core.

18. The wound dressing according to claim 17, wherein the discrete portions of absorbent material are enmeshed in the absorbent core.

19. The wound dressing according to claim 18, wherein the absorbent material is selected from the group consisting of hydrocolloids, hydrogels and hydrophilic polymers.

20. The wound dressing according to claim 17, wherein the backing layer is secured to the border portion of the absorbent core.